

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 28, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in this Application. The Office Action rejected Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-20. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11-12, 15-20. Applicants cancel Claims 7 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's notation that Claims 7 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 11-12, 15-17, and 19-20 have been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 7 and 14, and Claims 7 and 14 have been cancelled.

Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's notation that Claims 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 17 and 18.

Section 112 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to an insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out this informality. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to correct this informality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 17 and 18.

Section 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejects under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-16 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,728,551 to Chang ("Chang") in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,097,953 to Bonta et. al. ("Bonta") and U.S. Patent No. 5,793,805 to Nikides ("Nikides"); and Claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chang* in view of

Bonta and U.S. Patent No. 6,622,023 issued to Chheda (“*Chheda*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s notation that Claims 7 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 11-12, 15-17, and 19-20 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 7 and 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 11-12, 15-17, and 19-20.

The dependent claims are allowable based on their dependence on the independent claims and further because they recite numerous additional patentable distinctions over the references of the rejection. Because Applicants believe they have amply demonstrated the allowability of the independent claims over the references of the rejection, and to avoid burdening the record, Applicants have not provided detailed remarks concerning these dependent claims. Applicants, however, remain ready to provide such remarks if it becomes appropriate to do so. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the dependent claims.

Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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